

SUPPLEMENT TO THE NUR AFSHAN

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Editorial Notes.

We have long realized the need of something like an Employment Bureau for Native Christians. It is, therefore, with pleasure we present the following lines from Miss M. L. Harris of Faizabad, N. W. P.:

"Kindly mention in the *Nur Afshan* that any one requiring Christian servants can apply to me. So many come to me and many have very good *Chis*."

Few things impress one more than the sight of a great nation in the throes of National reform, almost amounting to revolution. It is not long since we saw the Japanese nation convulsed under the forward movement of moral, social and religious, as well as political revolution. The overthrow of the Samuri Dominion with its despotic semi-barbarism, was speedily followed by a liberal limited monarchy. Then the introduction of the methods in vogue in Christian nations, the establishment of a public school system for the education of the people, the organization of a military system under the tutorship of German and American instructors, the building of a modern navy—all this and much more prepared the nation for its triumphant struggle with China. The hearty acceptance of the teaching of Chris-

tianity by many prepared the way for the national Christian church. Recognizing the blessings which Christianity has brought to the Japanese, the war with China was followed by a rush of multitudes into the fold of the church. And, while this was followed by a reaction, nevertheless those who know the most assure us of rapid advance all along the line.

The good news now comes that Japan has been formally recognized as a civilized nation. Henceforth she shall wear this crown of glory. Is it possible for her long to refuse the recognition of Christianity as her national Faith?

The influence of China's defeat by the Japanese "pigmies" has been to awaken multitudes among the most intelligent classes to the fact that Japan won her battles by her Christian methods. The effect is manifest in the suddenly recognized importance of the missionaries. Instead of regarding them as enemies they have found them true friends of China. The consequence is that marvellous movement, checked for a while by the deposing of the Emperor by the Dowager Empress—a movement called the "renaissance of China" and yet destined to accomplish the salvation of the nation.

This marvellous reform movement, growing as it did to a large extent out of the educational and literary work of Christian missions, is thus graphically described by Mr. Robert Speer in the *Assembly's Herald* for May:

"In 1898, the Reform Movement became the dominant force even in Peking. Kang-yuwei, the leader of the reformers, a Cantonese scholar, who had won the degree of Chin Shih, or doctor of literature, was appointed secretary of the Tsung-li Yamen, and was asked to assume the management of a paper to be the official organ of the government. Other reformers were advanced to leading positions in the State. The Emperor himself threw in his lot wholly with them, ordering from one of the depositories in Peking all the books and Scriptures obtainable there. What followed is well known. Edict after edict poured out from the palace. Railroads opening the whole country were arranged for. Factories and mines were to be promoted. Social reforms were approved, and foot binding was attacked by Viceroy Chang Chih-tung and officials all over the empire. The country was to be opened, temples were to be changed into Western schools; the right of petition was extended to all; a free press was encouraged. The world stood aghast. But the pace was too fast. It was proposed to cut off the queues of the people, and too many conservative officeholders were dismissed



The rest of the sad story need not be detailed. All know how the Dowager Empress resumed power rusticated the emperor, executed six of the leading reformers, banished others, and recalled most of the edicts.

But the new Imperial University, of which Dr. Martin is the President, and to which 1,400 young men applied for admission, was not closed, and the general spirit of inquiry was only checked, not suppressed. Many mourned over the reaction. The *Shanghai Daily News* wrote on November 15: "The pity of it is that the foreign legations, which ought to have jumped at the opportunity gave no assistance whatever to the emperor and his reforming friends.....No one ever expected that this dynasty could produce a man so worthy to rule, nor will it ever produce another! Yet he seems to have found not one to help him among the foreign officials in Peking. Reform has no real interest for them. The pity of it!"

Yet the chapter is not closed. All this is only the beginning.

Current Thought.

A Touching Incident.

BY J. M. DOSH.

In traveling, we often meet with persons of different nationalities and languages. We also meet with incidents of different character—some sorrowful, some joyful and instructive.

One of the latter character I witnessed recently while traveling on the cars. The train was going West, and the time was evening. At a station a little girl about eight years of age got aboard. She came into a car and deliberately took a seat; she then began an eager scrutiny of faces, but all were strange to her. She appeared weary, and placing the

budget for a pillow, she prepared to try to procure a little sleep. Soon the conductor came along collecting fare and tickets. Observing him she asked him if she might sleep there. The gentlemanly conductor said that she might, and then kindly asked her for her ticket. She informed him that she had none, when the following conversation ensued:

Said the conductor: "Where are you going?"

She then said: "I am going to Heaven."

She then said: "Mister does this railroad lead to Heaven, and does Jesus travel on it?"

He answered: "I think not; why do you ask?"

"Why, sir, before my ma died she used to sing to me about the heavenly railroad, and you looked so nice and kind I thought this was the heavenly railroad. My ma used to sing of Jesus on the heavenly railroad, and that he paid the fare of everybody, and that the train stopped at every station to take the people on board. But my ma don't sing to me any more. Nobody sings to me now, and I thought I'd take the cars and go to ma. Mister, do you sing to your little girl about the railroad that goes to Heaven? You have a little girl, haven't you?"

He replied, weeping: "No, my little girl, I have no little girl now: I had one once, but she died some time ago, and went to Heaven."

Again she asked: "Did she go over this railroad and are you going to see her now?"

By this time all persons in the coach were on their feet and most of them weeping. An attempt to describe what I witnessed is almost futile. Some said, "God bless the little girl!" Hearing some people say she was an angel, the little girl earnestly replied: "Yes, ma used to say I would be an angel sometime."

Addressing herself once more to the conductor, she asked him: "Do you love Jesus? I do, and if you love Him, He will let you ride to heaven on his railroad. I am going there, and I wish you would go with me. I know Jesus will let me into heaven when I get there, and He will let you in too, and everybody that will ride on His railroad—yes all these people. Wouldn't you like to see Heaven and Jesus, and your little girl?" These words, so innocently and pathetically uttered brought a fresh gush of tears from all eyes; but most profusely from the eyes of the conductor. Some who were traveling on the heavenly railroad shouted for joy.

She now asked the conductor: "Mister, may I lie here until we get to Heaven?"

He answered: "Yes, my dear."

She then asked: "Will you wake me up then, so that I can see ma, your little girl and Jesus? I do want to see them all."

The answer came in broken accents, but in words very kindly spoken, "Yes, my dear angel, yes. God bless you." "Amen," was sobbed by more than a score of voices.

Turning her eyes again to the conductor, she interrogated him: "What shall I tell your little girl when I see her? Shall I say that I saw your pa on Jesus' railroad? Shall I?"

This brought a fresh flood of tears from all present, and the conductor, kneeling at her side and embracing her wept the reply he could not utter.

At this juncture the brakeman called out, "H—s." The conductor arose and requested him to attend to his (the conductor's) duty at the station, for he was engaged. That was a precious place. I thank God that I was a witness to this scene; but I was sorry that at this point I was obliged to leave the train. We learned from this incident that out of the mouths of even babes God hath ordained strength, and that we ought to be willing to represent the cause of our blessed Jesus, even in a railroad coach.

A few months after the above occurrence, I received the following from the conductor:

Mr. Dos heart by w that the a was a bless not realize some ho Redeemer His and H wonder, wh O, my joy! of my sal God. I ha in place of now in H tion I took return trip where she tion with r ing her, sh ly, and in is a Divi "Oh," said to take un ment of n made inqu and learn return sh any appare soul had ma, me lit Heaven. death; b to joy, w daughter earth con is on the methinks deemer. home, an find mys "Yes" my soon will sir, I am acquainta the Great

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MR. DASH:—I wish to relieve my heart by writing to you, and saying that the angel's visit on the cars was a blessing to me, although I did not realize it in its fullness until some hours later; but blessed be the Redeemer. I know now that I am His and He is mine. I no longer wonder why Christians are happy. O, my joy! my joy! The instrument of my salvation has gone home to God. I had proposed adopting her in place of my little daughter who is now in Heaven. With this intention I took her to C—b, and on my return trip I took her back to C—n, where she left the cars. In consultation with my wife in regard to adopting her, she replied: "Yes, certainly, and immediately, too; for there is a Divine Providence in this." "Oh," said she, "I never could refuse to take under my charge the instrument of my husband's salvation." I made inquiry for the child at C—n, and learned that three days after her return she died suddenly without any apparent disease and her happy soul had gone to dwell with her ma, me little girl and the angels in Heaven. I was sorry to hear of her death; but my sorrow was turned to joy when I think of my angel daughter receiving intelligence from earth concerning her pa, and that he is on the heavenly railroad. Oh, sir, methinks I see her near the Redeemer. I hear her sing: "I am safe at home, and pa is coming;" and I find myself sending back the reply: "Yes, my darling, we are coming, and soon will be there." Oh, my dear sir, I am glad that I ever formed your acquaintance. May the blessings of the Great God rest upon you.

Please write to me, and be assured, sir, I would be happy to meet you again.

DR. PROTAP CHUNDER MOOZOOMDAR
ON CHRIST.

—Dr. Protap Chunder Mozoomdar's views on Christ are becoming more and more interesting. The Sadharan Brahma Samajists have gone even the length of accusing him of being a Christian. We leave it to our readers to judge for themselves how one who speaks of Christ as follows can be regarded as anti-Christian. We take the following from the *Interpreter*, the Brahma organ, which is the mouthpiece of Dr. Mozoomdar:—

"But if we hold that Christ includes and sums up all great teachers, what is the benefit of considering or honouring the claims of these teachers at all; are they not superseded and abolished by faith in

Christ? To illustrate and emphasize the precepts and Gospel of the Son of God the Christian preacher is always citing the instances of Elijah and David, of Paul and John, and others, because these throw special light on special points of Christ's character. Why should we not as Hindus extend these illustrations and concentrate this emphasis by citing the life, character, and teachings of the prophets of our own country, nay of all countries of which we know anything? Our great principle in the teaching of Divine Humanity is that though Christ Jesus is the sum, the type, the completeness of God's Sonship, and contains in him all the elements which constitute that Sonship, these elements have been respectively incorporated and developed in different prophets as they have been needed by men and nations. He was not a wise man in the sense that Socrates or Plato was, but the element of wisdom was in him in its fullness. Men of the Greek temperament will always need Socrates and Plato to understand Christ. He was not a devotee in the sense that Chaitanya was, but the element of devotional love was in him in its fullness. The Bengali will always need Chaitanya to be Christlike. He was not a man of self-suppression and humanity in the sense that Buddha was, but the element of self-surrender and humanity was in him in its fullness. The Indian will always need Buddha to be pure and merciful like Christ. These men were indispensable for their lands and in their times, they reflected as it were, the fragments of broken light of Divine Humanity, and were more brilliant than Christ himself in the points where they reflected it.

But Christ was for all lands and all time; he gathered in him the fragments into a fulness of light which illumines all. The light of the life of Christ has grown and grown in the history of Christian life, and that life cannot be appreciated or even understood without the life of those who were prophets of Divine Humanity before and after him. And these are not confined to Hebrew and Christian history. They extend to Greece, Egypt, Arabia, India. How then can Divine Humanity in any man or in any nation be superseded? Indeed they all merge in the fulness of the Son of Man, but they illustrate the many phases of that sonship from various points according to the need of complex humanity.

Mrs. Besant's Hindu College.

Poor Mrs. Besant! In spite of her pandering to the patriotic and religious feelings of the Hindus, she has failed to collect money sufficient to maintain a Hindu College at Benares. Now she has thrown herself on the charity of those very Christians, whose religion she renounced as false and whose religion she never loses an opportunity of condemning as being conducive only to the degradation of the best nature of humanity. If her scheme had any merits, the Hindus would have never reduced her to the necessity of going a begging to Mlechhas for the uplifting of the Aryans. Mrs. Besant in her appeal writes, "To meet these difficulties, and to place within the reach of Indian youths, an education which combines the advantages of east and west, affording the best western education hand in hand with eastern philosophy and religion, a committee of highly placed and responsible Hindus—judges, rajas, princes, and land-owners—has been formed, and a Hindu College and Collegiate School has been founded in Benares, the religious capital of Hinduism." Mrs. Besant, though not independently of western education seeks to create "a generation of soundly educated, religious, courteous, self-respecting, and athletic Hindus, loyal to the Empress and capable citizens of the Empire." This is the bait and we will see if it will take; but at the same time the appeal clearly indicates that the Indian judges, rajas, princes, and land-owners would not seriously countenance the movement.

Indian Christian Messenger.

What is Life?

A little crib beside the bed,
A little face above the spread,
A little frock behind the door,
A little shoe upon the floor.

A little lad with dark brown hair,
A little blue-eyed face and fair;
A little lane that leads to school,
A little pencil, slate and rule.

A little blithesome, winsome maid,
A little hand within is laid;
A little cottage, acres four,
A little old-time household store.

A little family gathered round,
A little turf-heaped tear-dewed mound;
A little added to the soil,
A little rest from hardest toil.

A little silver in his hair,
A little stool and easy chair,
A little night of earth-lit gloom,
A little cottage to the tomb. —Selected.

Telegrams

London, July 18.

At to-day's sitting of the Transvaal Volksraad Mr. Kruger strongly advocated an amendment to the new Bill making the franchise seven years with retrospective effect. This he said was righteous and reasonable, and would remove the basis of the English objections to the new proposals.

Later despatches announce that the Volksraad has passed the seven years' Franchise Bill with only five dissentients.

London, July 18.

Despatches from Pretoria state that a prolonged secret session of both Volksraads and the executive was held yesterday, and it is understood that important concessions in the direction of Sir A. Milner's demands are now being favourably entertained. Mr. Cecil Rhodes arrived at Capetown yesterday and drove rapidly away to forest all the crowd.

London, July 18.

Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht *Shamrock*, which is to contest the America Cup, has beaten the yacht *Britannia* by 13 minutes in a trial of 40 miles in the Solent.

London, July 18.

General Lord Kitchener was entertained this evening at a banquet given by the Fishmongers Company and received the freedom of the Company, which was presented in a gold casket. There was a numerous and distinguished company present, including General Sir Evelyn Wood, General Chermide and many Anglo-Egyptian officers. General Kitchener, in replying to the toast of the evening, thanked the company for himself and his military colleagues and spoke of the great progress that was being made in the Soudan and of the rapid advance of the railway and telegraph.

London, July 18.

Lord George Hamilton was absent from the House of Commons yesterday, and consequently a long and argumentative question of which Sir Seymour King had given notice asserting that Prince Ranjitsinhji's rights to the Nawanagar succession was not asked, but Mr. Maclean, member for Cardiff, and Sir Henry Fowler protested against the character of the questions to be put, as making accusations against the Government of India and certain native princes. The Speaker promised to examine the questions and to amend them if they were irregular.

London, July 21.

The *Times* in an article this morning says the Uitlanders may rely that no amendments to the franchise proposals will be acceptable failing to give them appreciable representation immediately.

London, July 21.

A disastrous explosion occurred to day on board the torpedo boat destroyer *Bullfinch* during a trial at Portsmouth. Nine men were killed and four injured.

London, July 21.

Lieutenant Harrington, British Agent in Abyssinia, in an interview at Aden, said that no difficulty was likely to arise with Abyssinia in connection with the Soudan frontier, our relations with the Negus being excellent.

London, July 21.

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. Goschen, presenting the Naval Estimates, said he saw no menace in the programmes of foreign Powers against England. The latter

was bound to equal any two Powers, but did not desire to enter into a race for naval supremacy.

America and Japan, he added, were now Naval Powers, and it was expedient to appoint naval attaches to those countries.

London, July 21.

Sir Seymour King has modified the question to which objection was taken by Mr. Maclean and Sir Henry Fowler the other day, by asking why Prince Ranjitsinhji's memorial stating his claims to the Nawanagar throne remains unanswered. The question will now be put on the 25th instant.

Madras, July 21.

Judgment was delivered in the Kamuthi temple case yesterday evening by the Sub-Judge of Madura. A huge crowd thronged the precincts of the court, but there were no Shanars present. The Judge held that the Raja of Ramnad was trustee of the Kamuthi temple and the suit was maintainable, but the alleged act of sacrilege in the temple were not proved, hence the damages claimed for the alleged desecration were disallowed. The defendants, the Shanars, the Judge held were a class who by Shastrias and custom were prohibited from entering and worshipping in Hindu temples, and he accordingly decreed that the defendants and their castemen were not entitled to enter the Kamuthi temple. A permanent injunction restraining them and their castemen from doing so will issue. Damages to the extent of Rs. 500 were allowed to the plaintiff Raja of Ramnad for the cost of performing the purificatory ceremony at the temple. The Judge directed each party to bear its own costs in view of the fact that both parties prolonged the hearing by raising unnecessary issues.

Lucknow, July 21.

Owing to a pointsman's mistake at Masit, a small flag station near Hardoi on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, a down goods train ran into a dead end. The engine ran over the stop block and buried itself in the earth, and mud, while the wagons behind were piled up in a heap, blocking the main line. The driver and fireman had very narrow escapes, and the European guard was very severely shaken.

London, July 22.

A plenary sitting of the Peace Conference has finally condemned the Dum-Dum bullets; the delegates from Great Britain and America alone opposing the resolution.

London, July 22.

There were 35 cases and 26 deaths from plague in Mauritius during the week ending the 20th instant. The pestilence has spread to Reunion.

London, July 22.

The Queen's prize at the Bisley Rifle Meeting has been won by Private Priaulx of the Guernsey Militia.

London, July 22.

At the athletic competition to day between representatives of Harvard and Yale and Oxford and Cambridge, which took place at Queen's Club, the Englishmen won five events and the Americans four.

London, July 22.

Mr. Elihu Root has succeeded Mr. Alger as American Secretary for War.

Bombay, July 22.

The trail of the two gangmen who were charged with wrecking a passenger train at Paighar on the Bombay-Baroda Railway and causing loss of life, has lasted a week at the Thana Sessions. Both prisoners alleged that the police had tortured them to extort confessions and concoct a case. The jury yesterday returned a verdict of not guilty on all counts.

Bombay, July 22.

The forged *kundi* case, which has excited great local interest, closed yesterday at the Bombay Criminal Sessions. The prisoners Maneklal and Capuji were found guilty of fraudulently using forged *kundis* of a total value of Rs. 15,000. Sir Lawrence Jenkins sentenced them to six years' rigorous imprisonment. The third accused, Chotalal, was acquitted.

Madras, July 22.

A public meeting was held in Madras last night to congratulate Mr. Paranjpye, the Indian senior wrangler, when the following resolutions were adopted:—"That this meeting of residents of Madras heartily congratulates Mr. Paranjpye on the brilliant success achieved by him as senior wrangler in the recent Cambridge Mathematical Tripos, that the meeting congratulates the Principal and Professors of Fergusson College, Poona, on the unprecedented success of Mr. Paranjpye, and thanks them for their noble self-sacrificing labour in the cause of glowing tributes and praise. One speaker said that but for social caste restrictions many a Paranjpye could be discovered from amongst the natives of India.

Karachi, July 22.

To day's returns show 1 case and 2 deaths.

London, July 23.

A sensation has been created in Paris by the publication of a telegram which the Tsar sent to Prince Louis Napoleon on the latter's birthday, expressing the hope that each year would bring him nearer to the highest period of his life when he would realise the wishes of his friends who are as numerous in France as in Russia.

London, July 23.

Trade in the Transvaal is at a standstill, and there will be many bankruptcies declared unless a speedy settlement is arrived at.

London, July 24.

The *Times*' Pretoria correspondent says the Uitlanders have been given to understand that the Imperial authorities will not abate Sir Alfred Milner's demands, and a real crisis is, therefore, believed to be within sight.

A sensation was aroused in Johannesburg to day by a rumour that President Kruger had resigned. The report was subsequently denied from Pretoria.

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